

East Tennessee were on this call, and to say that they are unhappy would be to put it mildly. That really is an understatement. They are angry. They are frustrated. They are exhausted with what this administration is doing. They are angry with how the Federal Government is responding to a host of issues.

They really took President Biden at his word for his Build Back Better. They expected that. But that is not what they have gotten. He has made a mess of it, and, indeed, what you have is a "Build Back Broke" agenda.

And my colleague from Missouri really laid that out. It is "Build Back Broke." That is what they are bringing forward. And that agenda of President Biden's and the Democratic Party has really destroyed a lot of the hopes and the dreams and some of the renewed prosperity of Tennesseans whose job isn't to study the economy but to move it forward.

They do the heavy lift every single day.

Last night, I spoke with businessowners who feel like they are under attack by this administration and their economic policy. The cost of doing business is going up. They are bleeding customers because they have less disposable income because of inflation, because of the price at the pump.

Supply chains are collapsing around them. It is difficult to get raw materials, like lumber and steel. They have no confidence at all in the administration's willingness or ability to solve this problem. They feel as if the administration does not give the ripping flip about what happens to them in Upper East Tennessee. This administration has forgotten them.

On top of everything else, these vaccine mandates—now, we are hearing a lot about that, and we are hearing from people who know they are going to lose their job. Many times, these are women who are the sole source—the sole source—of income for their families. These families are very concerned about how they are going to handle inflation, collapsing supply lines, how they are going to handle some of the broken social policies that this administration and their allies are trying to sneak into law.

So far this year, we have seen our colleagues across the aisle and down at the White House try to force through provisions of the Green New Deal that would bankrupt your average family and destroy economic development opportunities in rural areas.

We know that it is expected that the cost to heat your home this winter is going to increase 30 percent. Now, how do you handle that when you have lost your job? Do you just sit there and freeze? And you are losing your job because of a Federal mandate that says you have to go get a shot in order to keep a job that you love, in order to put food on the table to feed your family. This makes no sense.

I also heard from parents very upset about critical race theory and the way

this administration is trying to hijack education and force this curriculum, force cradle-to-grave socialism—daylight to dark, 24/7, depend on the Federal Government.

One of the things that frightens Tennesseans the most and came up regularly on our telephone townhall was the broken border policies. I have said it before; I will say it again. This fear has nothing to do with racism and xenophobia. This administration and my colleagues across the aisle need to get that point through their heads.

Tennesseans are afraid because they look at the border. What they are seeing is vulnerability. They see the drugs coming across that border because the drugs end up in their streets: fentanyl, meth, heroin.

Every town is a border town. Every State is a border State because Joe Biden's border policy is: Open up the border. Hang out the "Y'all come sign," and give everybody a plane ticket to wherever they are going in the country. And, oh, by the way, if the commercial flights are full, don't worry about it. We will go charter you a jet and send you under the cloak of darkness into Chattanooga or into Knoxville or into West Chester County. That is what concerns Tennesseans.

They are seeing what is happening with sex trafficking, with human trafficking. They are afraid of what cartels are doing because the cartels are saying: Thank you, Joe Biden. The door is open. We were not fearful. We are setting up distribution centers on U.S. soils.

That is right, the cartels, setting up their distribution centers. Why? Because Joe Biden is weak and feckless and doesn't stand up to protect the southern border.

There is another thing that they were quite exercised about last night, and it is the issue of election integrity. Indeed, I had a Tennessean call me at 6:45 this morning, and he said: Marsha, you have got to be kidding me. You mean they want to pass a bill that says anybody can go vote, that you can go vote the day of the election, that you don't have to show an ID to vote?

He said: You know, I recently had to show not only a vaccine card but my ID to prove that was my vaccine card to go sit inside at the In-N-Out Burger.

This is why people are so frustrated with Joe Biden. This is why they are so frustrated with the Democrats.

What are they looking for? They are looking for legislators to have some backbone, to stand up and stand for freedom, not to kowtow to a socialist agenda, because they know if the Democratic leadership and Joe Biden had their way with one vote, they would take one vote, and they would push to a socialist agenda.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The Senator from Minnesota.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwith-

standing rule XXII, at 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, October 21, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Lin, Parker, and Perez nominations, in that order; and that if cloture is invoked on any of the nominations, all postcloture time will be considered expired at 1:45 p.m.; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Lin nomination, the confirmation vote occur at 1:45 p.m. on Thursday; finally, that if cloture is invoked on either the Parker or Perez nominations, the confirmation votes begin at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, October 25.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### RECOGNIZING MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Middlebury College, in my State of Vermont, is known worldwide as an outstanding educational institution. What is less well-known is that the college is also a leader in addressing climate change.

The college first became carbon neutral not by simply purchasing carbon credits, but by doing the hard work of actually becoming carbon neutral, including the implementation of 123 individual efficiency projects that are collectively saving the college nearly \$1 million a year. With that work complete, they set about securing their energy entirely from renewable sources—first, with one of the largest biodigesters in Vermont and, now, with a 5 megawatt solar array, that will provide 30 percent of the college's electricity.

The project includes energy storage, which will benefit the electric grid by spreading out when the power enters the grid. Perhaps more importantly, that stored energy will also serve as a source of emergency power for a nearby hospital, Porter Medical Center. The project also involves two Vermont companies: Encore Renewable and Green Mountain Power.

Earlier this month, it was an honor to join the groundbreaking for the project, where Middlebury College President Laurie Patton shared her vision for how to get to a better climate future. All should read her impressive remarks at the event, and I ask that a copy of them be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

October 12, 2021.

Good morning.

I am so happy to be here with you today, and it's my honor to share this podium on a beautiful autumn morning with my friends and colleagues Chief Don Stephens, Senator Patrick Leahy, Chad Farrell of Encore Renewable Energy, Matt Murphy of Green Backer Capital, Mari McClure of Green Mountain Power, Lieutenant Governor Molly Gray, Middlebury Select board chairman Brian Carpenter, and the College's own Simone Ameer. Senator Leahy, as a professor of religion I already made arrangements with the heavens for this weather—so you didn't need to make the law!

We come together today as responsible stewards of this planet and of this place we are blessed to call home—Ndakinna [in-DAH-keen-AH], the town of Middlebury, the county of Addison, the state of Vermont.

We gather to recognize the generations who came before us in making this very place what it is today, and we do so in service of the generations to come, to ensure that Ndakinna [in-DAH-keen-AH], Middlebury, Addison County, and Vermont remain places where the health of our environment is paramount, and where our people can come together in concert, rather than competition, to maintain a livable community and planet.

When we at Middlebury announced our Energy 2028 initiative three years ago, we laid out an ambitious ten-year plan, pledging that in a decade's time we would sharply reduce our energy consumption as an institution; reduce and then eliminate our investment in fossil fuels; craft a large educational initiative to continue our research and scholarship into climate change—and, in perhaps our boldest promise, rely completely on renewable energy sources to power our Vermont campus.

The solar array project on which we break ground today takes us one large step closer to realizing this goal, as it is expected to provide nearly one-third of the energy needed to power our campus. This groundbreaking comes on the heels of the start-up of the largest anaerobic digester in the Northeastern United States at the Goodrich Farm in nearby Salisbury, another local project and partnership that is supplying renewable natural gas to the College and community.

Each of these efforts—indeed, all of our efforts to meet our Energy 2028 goals—are collaborative by design, because we all have a stake in the outcome. Just as our plan was crafted in a spirit of independence, in which no individual part could work without the other, the same can be said for our partnerships. Remove any one of us, and we're not here today. Remove any one of us, and we're not here today.

In a few weeks, on a platform a little bit bigger than this one and with just a few more people in attendance, the United Nations Climate Change Conference will convene in Glasgow, Scotland. The comparisons in scope between that and this, here and there, may cause some to peer at us today and wonder: what's the point? We're so small!

As I have written and spoken in the past, a local initiative such as this one is exactly the point, the point being that local wisdom and local practices are the ideal conditions to help put out the fire that is consuming our planet. The sun is one of the oldest symbols known to humans; it is in the earliest cave paintings tens of thousands of years ago, and in the earliest spoken prayers of more than 3000 years ago. It is only fitting that we should return, indeed come full circle, to the sun to heal our planet.

We are so blessed to call this place home.

The Green Mountains rest behind me.

In my mind's eye, I can already envision the sheep that will graze beneath the solar arrays, managing the vegetation growing in these fields.

And up above, in a sky that Sabra Field herself could have painted, a golden light will not only illuminate the beauty of our surroundings but will allow us to take another critical step toward building a sustainable future.

Thank you, everyone of you, for your help in building a new world.

LAURIE L. PATTON,  
President, Middlebury.

#### TRIBUTE TO ADELINE DRUART

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, these days, it is not uncommon for people to frequently change careers, companies, or job paths. At one iconic Vermont entity, though, Vermont Creamery, president and chief executive officer Adeline Druart has dedicated more than 17 years to growing and expanding the company's product line and brand. She was recently featured on the Positive Enterprise Podcast, and hers is a story in which all Vermonters can find pride and motivation.

The cheese and butter that Vermont Creamery produces is some of the best in the world. As a Certified B Corporation, Vermont Creamery follows a long Vermont legacy of investing in environmental sustainability, local supply chains, and worker satisfaction. These investments have clearly paid off. In 2017, Vermont Creamery was acquired by Land O'Lakes, a century-old farmer-owned cooperative, and has continued on an impressive path of conscious growth. With Land O'Lakes' support, Vermont Creamery has expanded its facilities nearly 40 percent and is now a recognizable brand in grocery stores across the country. In 2020, the company supported our community through the pandemic, donating 12,000 pounds of food to hungry Vermonters, providing hazard pay to their employees, and advocating for universal childcare for Vermont's working families. They also converted their Websterville-based facility to run on 100-percent renewable energy. And these changes have only underlined their belief that consciously crafted products made with the best ingredients just taste better. Today, the beloved Vermont Creamery makes the No. 1 best-selling goat cheese in the country.

Adeline Druart is responsible for so much of this impressive growth. In the early 2000s, Adeline, then a student from France, came to Vermont Creamery to complete an internship for her master's degree. She just couldn't stay away. Adeline worked her way up the ranks at the creamery, before being named president and CEO in 2015. In that role, she has shown exactly what tenacity and hard work, when paired with a people-first approach to business, can do. The mother of two young sons, Adeline has reinforced Vermont Creamery's original family-oriented

culture while steering the company's growth. She is an inspiration to me, and I am so proud that she calls Vermont home.

Vermont is home to some of the finest agriculture, wood-based, and other products in the country. We feature many of these at the annual Taste of Vermont here in Washington, a tradition I hope to return to next year. At the helm of so many of these Vermont companies are people like Adeline. It is in these hard-working and creative leaders that we can find great hope for Vermont's economic recovery and vibrant future.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO STEVE LEVESQUE

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the outstanding career of a leader in economic development in the State of Maine. Steve Levesque, of Greenville, ME, is retiring after 41 years of professional experience in the areas of economic and community progress, land use planning, and environmental services in both the private and public sectors, including when I was Governor as commissioner of Maine's Department of Economic and Community Development. Most recently, Steve has made an indelible mark in his position as executive director of Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority, MRRA. From his first days in economic and community development in Maine, Steve has held a number of leadership positions in which he has led and advocated tirelessly for local, regional, and State economies with consistent messages of the quality of the business environment in Maine alongside our quality of life as Mainers.

In 2005, there were indications that the Naval Air Station Brunswick, NASB, would be disestablished and Steve, at that time, led the Brunswick Local Redevelopment Authority, charged with overseeing the successful completion of the Reuse Master Plan for NASB. He has been MRRA's only executive director since its formation in 2008. In 2011, when NASB officially closed, there were persistent doomsday forecasts about the hole that was left behind. Steve brought his own brand of fervency to MRRA to realize a dream of the adaptive reuse of the former base, now known as Brunswick Landing. He started by assembling a passionate and hard-working team and began carefully cultivating what would become critical and dedicated partnerships, developed over the years with so many groups: the Navy, the towns of Brunswick and Topsham, the State of Maine, all of Maine's congressional delegation, the FAA, and especially the impressive list of businesses and private developers who have invested in the vision to convert a former Navy base into an economic engine that